

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An input element for use with a touchpad of an information processing apparatus, the touchpad being responsive to changes in static capacitance, said input element comprising:

an electrically-conductive generally planar pad contact face configured to contact the touchpad; and

an electrically-conductive outer grip configured to electrically contact a hand of a user, said grip and said pad contact face being pivotally connected to each other.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The input element according to claim 6, wherein:
the input element has one of a paperweight or a pencil-shaped body; and
the input element is configured to input data to the information processing apparatus via the changes of static capacitance.

9. (Currently Amended) The input element according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein:
the input element has one of a paperweight or a pencil-shaped body; and

the input element is configured to input data to the information processing apparatus via the changes of static capacitance.

10. (Previously Presented) The input element according to claim 6, wherein said contact face is generally circular.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting data to an information processing apparatus via a touchpad, the touchpad being responsive to changes of static capacitance, the method comprising:

providing an input element having an electrically-conductive generally planar pad contact face and further having an electrically-conductive grip; and

establishing electrical contact between a user and the electrically-conductive grip;

contacting the pad contact face with the touchpad surface such that the static capacitance is changed; and

pivoting the grip and the contact face during said contacting.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the contact face is generally circular.

14. (New) An input element for use with a touchpad of an information processing apparatus, the touchpad being responsive to changes in static capacitance, said input element comprising:

an outer grip portion configured to electrically contact a hand of a user; and

a pad contact portion having a first end hingedly connected to an end of said grip portion, and a second end comprising an electrically-conductive generally planar pad contact face configured to contact the touchpad.

15. (New) The input element according to claim 14, wherein said pad contact portion further comprises a tapered connection portion connecting said first and second ends.